

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Pikhard (EP490723); Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Woodard; Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Niekrasz et al.; Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Mischel, Jr. et al.; Claim 25 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Heinkow et al.; Claims 26 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Trapani; Claims 28-30 and 32-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Nikodem et al.; Claims 34 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of DuRocher et al. and Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Nikodem et al. and further in view of Carter et al. Claim 19 has been canceled, without prejudice and thus, Claims 18 and 20-25 remain active.

Considering first then the Examiner's rejection of Claims 18 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Pikhard, it is to be noted that a corresponding copy of European Patent 0490723 B1 is attached hereto which includes an English translation of Claims 1-8. These translated claims serve to clearly explain that a thermoplastic layer 3 is shown in the sole figure that is interposed between offset glass sheets 2, 2 and that a foil strip 5 used for electric power supply of heating wires 4 conductively connected to a cable connection element 10. In one of the individual glass sheets 2 forming the laminated glazing, in an area of the cable connecting element, is provided a marginal recess 12 roughly corresponding to the external diameter of the cable connection ferrule 11. As can thus be

appreciated, the adhesive layer actually comprises thermoplastic layer 3 and elements 4
comprise heating wires rather than an adhesive layer as concluded by the Examiner.
Moreover, as can be appreciated from a review of Figure 1, there is no teaching in Pikhhard of
Applicant's claimed limitation that two surfaces of the two rigid panes facing each other are
provided with electrically conductive coatings on either side of an adhesive layer nor teach
that the cut out provided in the rigid panes extends at least partially through the adhesive
layer. More particularly, marginal recess 12 of Pikhhard does not extend through any adhesive
layer and instead only extends down to the level of foil strip 5 which is positioned well above
the thermoplastic 3.

The advantages of the above-emphasized limitations of Claim 18 is explained, for
example, at page 11, lines 14-32 which state that in the connection area of the electrode 6, a
feed hole or a cut-out 9 is formed in the pane 4 and in the adhesive layer 3. This allows the
passage of the external electrical connections for the two pairs of electrodes 6 of the two
coatings 5. The cut-out in the adhesive layer 3 is cut to size before the two rigid panes 2 and
4 are joined together, such that the adhesive material does not penetrate as far as the
electrodes 6 by melting. Where necessary, suitable protection measures will be taken. An
insert 10 in the form of a bushing is fixed in the feed hole 9 of the pane 4. Its axial length
corresponds substantially to the thickness of the rigid pane 4 (a few millimeters), and it
penetrates as far as the plane of the adhesive layer 3. A radial shoulder 11 that overhangs
toward the outside hooks onto the rear edge of the feed hole 9, such that the insert 10 is fixed
there in geometric correspondence which prevents it being extracted.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of Pikhhard and in view of the fact that none of
the other references of record teach or disclose the limitations now present in Claim 18, it is
submitted that Claim 18 as well as all claims dependent therefrom patentably define over the
prior art of record. It is further submitted that each of dependent Claims 20-23 contain

additional limitations having no corresponding teaching or disclosure in Pikhard or any of the remaining references of record. It is therefore submitted that such claims also merit indication of allowability.

Next considering then the rejection of Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Woodard, the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Niekrasz et al., the rejection of Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Mischel, Jr. et al., the rejection of Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Heinko et al., the rejection of Claims 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Trapani, the rejection of Claims 28-30, 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Nikodem et al., the rejection of Claims 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of DuRocher et al. and the rejection of Claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pikhard in view of Nikodem et al. and further in view of Carter et al., it is submitted that none of the above-noted secondary references serve to rectify the deficiencies noted hereinabove in Claim 18 with regard to Pikhard. Accordingly it is submitted that all of the claims mentioned above also patentably define over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

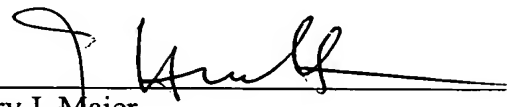
Respectfully submitted,

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